DAILY EVENING STAR.

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BY JOSEPH B. TATE.

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NCOURAGEMENT TO AMERICAN POETIC TALENT! \$500 PREMIUM.

PRESSED as I am with the controlling influence which is exercised by the fine arts upon the direcand destiny of human affairs, it has given me inpleasure to witness the bountiful manner in from time to time, painting and statuary have encouraged and rewarded by the Councils of the

while this acknowledgment is due to the disand worthy patrons of these noble arts, it is had source of humiliation and sorrow to behold pparent apathy and indifferen e with which they a to regard the incomparably more valuable cre-

see them adorn the walls of the Capitol with the ng revelations of the pencil, and decorate the grounds with the costly chef d'œuvres of the is an omen of good which will be hailed and auded by all as a cheering pledge of the progress mement. But, whilst they lavish their thousupon these immobile products of canvass and e and bronze, they effer no reward for the more d, more enduring and renowned ovations of he No fostering hand from these high places has et invited the Promethan fire of poetry to anithe history of our country, which, with all its my of form and a ouder of proportion, lies asleep the humble vault or Mount Vernon, ready to ginto life and beauty at the first kindling touch g-nial inspiration.

surely were a work of supererogation to introduce was that crowd the records of the past to show far above all other stands the "divine art" of What are all the paintings, statues, and rega-Versailles, of Fontainbleau, and the Tuileries, pared with the "Marseilles Hyun?" What the v panoply of gold and gems heaped up in the er of Loudon; what the collections of the Royal meny, or even the time.hallowed shrines of Weststr Abbey, when compared with the songs of s, and Dibden, and Campbell? Or what has the id that we would take in exchange for "Hail Coa" and the "Star-Spangled Banner?" Well at the British statesman exclaim, "let me but te the ballads of a nation, and I care not who

is far as the living, breathing man is above the cold ensate marble that is made to represent him; as ir as the ramant skies of summer are above the pershable canvass to which the painter has transferred heir feeble resemblance, so far is poetry above all ther arts that have their mission to console and eleate and inspire the immortal mind of man.

In view of these facts, and considering the lamentpaneity of patriotic songs in my distinguished beloved country, and with the hope of being the mble means of a proper public feeling upon this ining subject, I have been induced to offer, and hereby offer, the sum of five hundred dollars as a for the best National Poem, Ode, or Epic. e rules which will govern the payment of this

I have selected (without consulting them) the ing persons to act as judges or arbiters of the

thus offered, namely: President of the United States.

A O. P. Nicholson, of Tenness e. Chas. Sumner, of U. S. Senate

K. M. T. Hunter, do das C. Jones.

J. R Chandler, of U.S. House Representatives. Addison white. Thus. H. Bayly,

a. D. T. Disney, . John P. Kennedy, Secretary of the Navy. John W. C. Evans, of New Jersey.

Thos. Saunders. ph Gales. R. Armstrong, of the Press.

. Bailey,

sor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution. Selden, late Treasurer of the United States. C. M. Butler, Episcopal Church. R. K. Gurley, Presbyterian Church.

S. S. Roszell, Methodist Episdopal Church. Mr. Donelan, Catholic Church. These gentlemen, or any three of them, are

authorized to meet at the Smithsonian Instithe second Monday of December next, at such as they may appoint, and there proceed to read comine the various poems which may have seived, and to determine which of them is mentorious and deserving of the prize. And I bind myself to pay the sum aforementioned ith, to whoever they shall present to me as the who has written within the time prescribed the tional Patriotic Poem, and upon the represenhat he or she is an American citizen. all communications must be sent to me at

sten post-paid) before the first Monday in De-Bext, with a full and complete conveyance of yright to me and my heirs and assigns forhereby bind and obligate myself to sell the

has sent to me as soon as practicable, for the st price, and to give the proceeds to the poor of ity of Washington. No poem will be considered as subject to this

which shall not have been written subsequent this date, and received before the first Monday in R. W. LATHAM. WASHINGTON, FEB. 10, 1853.

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To Messrs. Mortimer & Mowbray: DEAR SIRS: In justice to Dr. Hampton's Vegetable Tincture, I wish to inform you that I was taken sick on the 3d day of January last, with an affection of the stomach, bowels, and kidneys. I was attended by four eminent physicians for more than two months-all to little er no effect. I had some knowledge of the great virtue in Hampton's Tincture from one bottle which my wife had taken two years

I came to the conclusion that I would take no more medicine from my physicians, but try the Tineture; and I am happy to inform you I had not taken it two days before I felt its powerful influence upon my stomach. I have continued using the Tincture, and am now able to leave my room, and can cat any common diet without much inconvenience or pressure on my stomach.

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E. W. HALL. Respectfully yours, On the permancy of the cure hear him. Still

another letter from the above!

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1 am, with respect, yours, E. W. HALL.

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DAILY EVENING STAR.

[For the Evening Star.]

THE ABSENT HUSBAND'S SONG.

BY ROBERT O. LINCOLN.

Thou com'st to me in dreams, my love, Thou com'st to me in dreams; And close beside my cot, my love, Thy beauteous presence gleams.

I press my lips to thine, my love, I press my lips to thine; And I am thailled with rapture, love, With bliss, almost divine.

I speak to thee alone, my love, I speak to thee alone: And sweet as angel's voice, my love, Is thy melodious tone.

I clasp thy gentle hand, my love, I clasp thy gentle hand: The touch rebinds our hearts, my love, In virtue's silken band.

Then come again to me, my love, O! come again to me; For folded in thy arms, my love, I live alone for thee.

A STAGE-COACH STORY.

[Concluded.]

I must beg you'll come down till a search is made for my property. Tom, here, will swear that there was a spoon in every teacup this morning as usual-won't you Tom?"

"Bedad, I'll take my Bible oath of that same, sure enough," replied Tom; "and sure I didn't swallow them."

The passengers all indignantly refused to submit to the search proposed by the landlord. An old lady inside went off ln hysterics, when the innkeeper opened the door, and proposed to turn her pockets inside out. There was an officer with a wooden leg on the box seat, who swore, in the most awful manner, that he would run the first man through the body that attempted to lay a hand on him-by the way, he hadn't a sword, but he forgot that in his fury. There was a justice of the peace for the county, who protested that he would commit the host for contempt; and a Dublin attorney in the back seat intimated his determination to indict Tom, who had laid hold of his leg, for an assault; and, moreover, to commence an action against his master for defamation. As I was but a youngster then, and the weakest of the party, the landlord chucked me down in a twinkling, and hauled me into the parlour, half dead with fright; and thereupon the rest of the possengers, including the wooden legged captain, scrambled down, and followed, determined to make common cause and protect me from insult with their lives, if necessary. And now we were all again in the breakfast room, clamoring and remonstrating, while to add to the din, the guard kept up a continual brattle with his horn. All this time the English gentleman was steadily prosecuting his work upon the eggs and toast, with a cup of tea before him which he was leisurely sipping, quite at his ease.

"What the deuce is the matter!" said he, looking up, "can't you let a man take his breakfast in comfort."

"The plate!" said the master.

"The silver spoons!" cried the butler.

"Robbery!" shouted the mistress.

"Search every one," demanded the host:

"Murder!" &c., screamed the house-

"come, let us begin with this young chap," diving his hand into my breeches pocket. "I think," said the Englishmen, coolly,

"twould be as well first to search the premises. Is the waiter long in your service?"

"Fifteen years last Shrovetide, and I defy any man to lay as much as the big of his nail to my charge."

By this time the English gentlemen had finished his breakfast, and, wiping his mouth most deliberately, he commenced to search the room. He opened every drawer of the sideboard, then he looked under the table, then behind the window shutters, but all in vain. After that he stopped a moment to reflect, when a bright thought seemed to cross his mind, and he raised the

lid of one of the tea pots, but with as little success as before; nevertheless, he continued his examination of the tea pots, and when he came to the last, what do you think, but he thrust in his hand, and drew out first one spoon, and then another, till he laid a number of them on the table .-Tom rushed up and began to count-"two, four, six," and so on, till at length he exclaimed-

NO. 69.

"May I never see glory, but they're all right, every one. The Lord between us and harm, but this bangs all that ever I seeu."

"I'll tell you what, my man," said the gentleman, looking sternly at the astonished waiter, "I strongly suspect you have been playing tricks upon your master. A nice haul you'd have had of it when the company had gone away! I don't like the look of the fellow, I tell you," he continued, addressing himself to the host; "and if it wasn't for the fortunate circumstance of my coming in a little late and wanting a spoon, you would have lost your property, "Gentlemen, I'm sorry to trouble you, but sir. You may count it a lucky day that I came to your house."

> The landlord was struck dumb with amazement; even the mistress hadn't a word to say, though she looked wickedly at poor Tom, and the house-maids began to cry and bless themselves.

> "Gentlemen," proceeded the Englishman, "I hope you'll overlook the insult you have received; as, after all, the landlord is not to be blamed; and if he will insist on this blackguard waiter making an ample apology, I will take upon me to say for you all, that you will not take any proceedings."

> All cheerfully expressed their assent to the proposition except the attorney, who still muttered something about assault and defamation, which so terrified Tom that he most humbly entreated pardon of the whole company, though he still protested that he was innocent of the crime laid to his

"Gammon!" said the gentleman; "but as you have made proper submission, and nothing has been lost, I shall make it a further condition with your master, that he won't turn you adrift on the world with a thief's character, but give you an opportunity of reforming. Keep a sharp eye on him, however, sir, I advise you. And now, gentlemen, I think we had better be mov-

We all hurried out and took our places, the English gentlemen getting up on the seat behind the coachman. Dempsey "threw the silk" into the horses; the guard blew an impatient blast on his horn, and off we went at a slapping pace, the host bowing humbly to us until we were out of sight.

"I've been driving on this road these ten years," said Dempsey, when he slackened his pace up a hill; "and I never knew such a thing as that happen before."

"Very likely," said the Englishman, quietly, "and never will again."

"I always thought Tom Reilly was honest a fellow, man and boy, as any in the

"I make no doubt he is," replied the other; "he has a very honest countenance."

"I thought, sir," said the captain, "you said you didn't like his looks?"

"Maybe I did say so," was the reply.

"And pray, sir, do you still think 'twas him hid the spoons ?"

"Not a bit of it."

"Then who did ?"

"I did. Do you think I'm green enough to travel so cold a morning as this without a comfortable breakfast ?"

"Well," said Dempsey, "that's the knowingest trick I ever hear of in my life."

"Not bad," replied the gentleman, with great sang froid, "but it won't do to be repeated." Televis estes of retrace forefed

When we arrived at Portarlington, the gentleman-who, by the way, turned out to be a very pleasant fellow, and up to all sorts of life-got off the coach, and ordered his